

Lunatic Asylum. About half-past six an alarm of fire was given, and it is supposed that the cell where it originated had been set on fire by one of the female patients, a woman of very vicious character, named Marie Breton. Her conduct had been such that she had to be put in the cells, and she vowed that she would have her revenge out on the "cursed place," as she termed the asylum. It is very certain that she was treated with the utmost kindness and consideration, but at times her outbreaks were such that she had to be placed under the severest restriction. Whatever may have been the destructive designs she formed, it seems almost certain that she suffered a horrible fate in the flames she is supposed to have kindled. It is supposed that she placed a candle under the bed and then shut the cell door. This seems to have occurred when the inmates were at prayers. There was a terrible scene in the western wing. By extraordinary exertions the female patients who had been in the south-eastern wing had been conveyed through the crowds to the western wing, and there they were cooped up, several hundreds of them, until sufficient means could be found of conveying them to the outlying male department of the institution. In the craze of fright the poor creatures became almost rabid, and when they were huddled together their frantic talk and hysteric shrieks were pitiable. This was about nine o'clock. The room was as full as it could hold, and it required every exertion the nurses and guardians could make to maintain anything like quiet in the ward. Some were sobbing piteously, some silently swaying to and fro, some passionately weeping, some singing triumphal songs and rejoicing in the work of destruction going on around them, some shrieking, howling and blaspheming, some calm and collected, as if fully apprised of the danger impending over the building. Strange to say, one of the worst cases in the female ward entirely recovered her reason in the panic, and is now as sane as possible. When the alarm was given Madame Vincelette took it very quietly and notified her husband, who proceed-